

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A permanent treatment method, comprising: [[a]] permeating comprising ~~step of~~ adhering a permanent treatment liquid comprising thioglycolic acid, down to a position adjacent to the hair root of hair that has been shampooed and from which a hair dressing[[,]] and the oil contents, ~~and the like~~, have been removed, thereby permeating the permanent treatment liquid into the hair root ~~of the hair~~; and

[[a]] shaping ~~step of~~ comprising pulling the hair with a force of 0.5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> or more while warming the hair, to which the permanent treatment liquid has been adhered ~~which is in such a state that the permanent treatment liquid is adhered thereon~~, to a predetermined temperature, thereby shaping ~~it~~ the hair to straight hair.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 1, further comprising, between said permeating ~~step~~ and said shaping ~~step~~, a treatment-liquid absorbing ~~step of~~ comprising sprinkling a treatment powder that adsorbs ~~or absorbs~~ said permanent treatment liquid, onto at least a part of said hair to transfer said permanent treatment liquid from said hair to the treatment powder, thereby absorbing the permanent treatment liquid and stopping the shaping temporarily.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a concentration of said thioglycolic acid in said permanent treatment liquid is 7% by weight or less of the entirety of said permanent treatment liquid.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 1, wherein said permanent treatment liquid further ~~includes~~ comprises cysteine, and the sum of

~~the~~ a concentration of said thioglycolic acid and ~~the~~ a concentration of the cysteine is 7% by weight of the entirety of said permanent treatment liquid.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 2, wherein said treatment powder is at least one member selected from the group consisting of hydrophilic organic powders and hydrophilic inorganic powders.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 1, wherein said permeating ~~step includes~~ comprises warming said hair ~~that is in such a state that~~ to which said permanent treatment liquid is being adhered ~~thereon~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 1, wherein said permeating ~~step includes~~ comprises leaving said hair ~~that is in such a state that~~ to which said permanent treatment liquid is being adhered ~~thereon~~ for 20 minutes or more.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 1, wherein said permeating ~~step includes~~ comprises vibrating said hair to which ~~that is in such a state that~~ said permanent treatment liquid is being adhered ~~thereon~~, with ultrasonic vibrating means.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 1, wherein said shaping ~~step includes~~ comprises vibrating said hair ~~that is in such a state that~~ to which said permanent treatment liquid is has been adhered ~~thereon, or said hair on which said treatment powder is sprinkled,~~ with ultrasonic vibrating means.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 8, wherein said ultrasonic vibrating means is equipped with an ultrasonic oscillator and an ultrasonic-waves absorbing plate[[,]] which is disposed to the face of the ultrasonic oscillator with a variable interval provided ~~therebetween~~ between the ultrasonic oscillator and the absorbing plate; and said vibrating is carried out while holding said hair to which ~~that is in such a state that~~ said permanent treatment liquid is being adhered thereon, ~~or said treated hair on which said treatment powder is sprinkled~~, between the ultrasonic oscillator and the absorbing plate.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 8, wherein said ultrasonic vibrating means is equipped with an ultrasonic oscillator and an ultrasonic-waves reflector plate[[,]] which is disposed to the face of the oscillator, wherein so as to ~~make the~~ an oscillation interval ~~with respect to the oscillator~~ is an integer multiple of  $1/2$  of the ~~wavelength of an~~ ultrasonic wave, ~~which generated by~~ the ultrasonic oscillator ~~generates~~; and said vibrating is carried out while holding said hair ~~that is in such a state that~~ to which said permanent treatment liquid is being adhered thereon, ~~or said hair on which said treatment powder is sprinkled~~, between the ultrasonic oscillator and the reflector plate.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 1, wherein said predetermined temperature in said shaping step is 100°C or more.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (New): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 2, wherein said shaping comprises vibrating the hair, to which said permanent treatment liquid has been

adhered and the treated hair has been further sprinkled with said treatment powder, with ultrasonic vibrating means.

Claim 15 (New): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 2, further comprising prior to shaping vibrating said hair, to which said permanent treatment liquid has been adhered and the treated hair has been further sprinkled with said treatment powder, with ultrasonic vibrating means.

Claim 16 (New): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 15, wherein said ultrasonic vibrating means is equipped with an ultrasonic oscillator and an ultrasonic-waves absorbing plate which is disposed to the face of the ultrasonic oscillator with a variable interval provided between the ultrasonic oscillator and the absorbing plate; and said vibrating is carried out while holding said hair, to which said permanent treatment liquid has been adhered and the treated hair has been further sprinkled with said treatment powder, between the ultrasonic oscillator and the absorbing plate.

Claim 17 (New): The permanent treatment method set forth in claim 15, wherein said ultrasonic vibrating means is equipped with an ultrasonic oscillator and an ultrasonic-waves reflector plate which is disposed to the face of the oscillator, wherein an oscillation interval is an integer multiple of  $1/2$  of the ultrasonic wave generated by the ultrasonic oscillator; and said vibrating is carried out while holding said hair, to which said permanent treatment liquid has been adhered and the treated hair has been further sprinkled with said treatment powder, between the ultrasonic oscillator and the reflector plate.